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PRESS GUIDANCE
July 8, 1980

TOGO/PRESIDENT CARTER'S 1979 LETTER

Q: Did President Carter send a note to the President of Togo praising him for pardoning two persons condemned to death?

A: In response to a letter from the President of Togo explaining his decision to pardon two individuals convicted of participating in an assassination plot, President Carter in October 1979 sent a letter to the President of Togo commending him for the pardon as a humanitarian gesture.

Q: Did the note sent to the President of Togo say that Eyadema had shown "the concern for the fundamental rights of life and justice common to our two nations"?

A: Yes, in the context of the pardoning of the two individuals condemned to death.

Q: What type of relations does the U.S. have with Togo?

A: U.S. relations with Togo are cordial. Togo cooperates with us in international organizations and regional security problems such as the Inter-African peacekeeping force in Zaire in 1978. Togo also supports our position on the Iranian crisis. The Government of Togo is aware of our concern with human rights; a concern we have often made clear to them.

Q: Has unauthorized torture occurred in Togo?

A: I refer you to the Human Rights Report on Togo which is part of the public record.

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File - Soc 14 New guidelines Togo Human Rts

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Q: What is the State Department's reaction to the Freedom House rating of Togo?

A: Again, I refer you to the Human Rights Report on Togo for the Department's assessment of Togo's record on human rights.

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E.O. 12065: GDS 10/15/86 (CLARK-BORNE, K.)

TAGS: JHUM, TO

SUBJECT: TOGO: SUMMARY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLAN

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. TEXT OF DRAFT SUMMARY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLAN FOR TOGO FOLLOWS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS BEFORE PUTTING IN FINAL FORM.

3. BEGIN TEXT.

I. STRENGTH OF DOMESTIC FORCES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENT:

TOGO IS A SINGLE PARTY AUTHORITARIAN STATE AND EXPRESSION OF POLITICAL IDEAS, EXCEPT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THOSE OF THE PARTY AND THE PRESIDENT, IS NOT PERMITTED. THE GOVERNMENT PLACES NATIONAL UNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OVER INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL AND CIVIL LIBERTIES. PERSONS INTERESTED IN HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENT, SUCH AS LAWYERS, JURISTS AND OTHER EDUCATED PERSONS, ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ORGANIZE OR SPEAK OUT. THE ONLY ORGANIZED POLITICAL

OPPOSITION TO THE REGIME IS LOCATED OUTSIDE OF TOGO AND APPEARS TO BE BASED MAINLY IN THE FAMILY OF FORMER PRESIDENT OLYMPIO. ALTHOUGH DOMESTIC FORCES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ARE WEAK, AT LEAST SO FAR AS POLITICAL RIGHTS ARE CONCERNED, THERE ARE ACTIVE GROUPS IN SUPPORT OF THOSE NONPOLITICAL RIGHTS THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY'S PROGRAM. WOMEN'S GROUPS IN TOGO ARE STRONG AND ACTIVE IN SEEKING SOCIAL REFORM. THE PARTY AND PARTY-RELATED NATIONAL LABOR UNION SUPPORT COOPERATION TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF WORKERS AND FARMERS.

II. SUSCEPTIBILITY TO U.S. INFLUENCE:

OUR RELATIONS WITH TOGO ARE GOOD AND THE TOGOLESE SEEM TO BE SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES FROM THE UNITED STATES. WE HAVE LITTLE LEVERAGE, HOWEVER. OUR ASSISTANCE IS MODEST AND IS ORIENTED TOWARD SUCH AREAS AS WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT, INTERMEDIATE RURAL TECHNOLOGY, SELF-HELP PROJECTS, PL 480 TITLE II, PEACE CORPS ACTIVITIES, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING. OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS LIMITED TO A \$30,000 TRAINING PROGRAM BEGUN IN FY 80. US TRADE WITH TOGO IS NOT SIGNIFICANT.

III. COST/BENEFITS TO THE U.S. OF VARIOUS COURSES OF ACTION:

(A) PRIVATE REPRESENTATIONS - PRIVATE REPRESENTATIONS IN THE PAST HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN TOGO. THE ATMOSPHERE OF THESE DEMARCHES HAS RANGED FROM FRIENDLY TO TENSE. THERE HAS BEEN NO DISCERNABLE COST. PRIVATE REPRESENTATIONS TO BE EFFECTIVE MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PERCEPTION ON THE PART OF THE TOGOLESE THAT THEIR NATIONAL INTERESTS ARE INVOLVED.

(B) PUBLIC STATEMENTS - THE ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT HAS BEEN SEEN BY THE TOGOLESE AUTHORITIES. IN THE ABSENCE OF OTHER OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION, A SINGLING OUT OF TOGO FOR PARTICULAR CRITICISM IS QUESTIONABLE BECAUSE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN TOGO IS NOT CLEAR AND APPEARS TO BE ON A PAR WITH THAT IN MOST OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. THE COST OF DOING SO WOULD BE MINIMAL TO OUR OVERALL NATIONAL INTERESTS BUT COULD HARM OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH TOGO.

(C) SYMBOLIC GESTURES - COMMUNICATIONS FROM AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL IN THE USG COULD BE USED TO ENCOURAGE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. WHILE SUCH GESTURES MIGHT BE AN APPROPRIATE MEANS TO ENCOURAGE BETTER HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE IN TOGO, WE WILL RUN THE RISK THAT THOSE PERSONS DISSATISFIED WITH THE REGIME MAY VIEW THEM AS ENDORSEMENTS.

(D) LIMITATION OR DENIAL OF ECONOMIC OR SECURITY ASSISTANCE - OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO TOGO IS LIMITED AND FOCUSED ON BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. REDUCING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WOULD EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO HURT THE PEOPLE WHO NEED IT. OUR MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE TO TOGO IS TOO MARGINAL TO USE AS LEVERAGE. EFFORTS TO USE THE MINIMAL LEVERAGE WE HAVE IN THIS AREA WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE EFFECTIVE WITHOUT THE COOPERATION OF FRANCE AND GERMANY -- THE TWO WESTERN COUNTRIES WITH THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND MILITARY TIES.

(E) DENYING OR LIMITING SALES OF MILITARY OR POLICE EQUIPMENT - THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO PLANS BY THE TOGOLESE TO PURCHASE U.S. EQUIPMENT.

(F) IFI LOAN VOTES - IFI LOANS HAVE GONE TO THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN THE PAST AND A NEGATIVE VOTE COULD BE DAMAGING TO SEGMENTS OF THE 75-80 PERCENT OF TOGO'S POPULATION THAT DEPENDS ON AGRICULTURE FOR A LIVELIHOOD.

(G) EXIM-OPIC - OPIC CURRENTLY DOES NO BUSINESS WITH TOGO. THE AMOUNT OF EXIM LOANS TO TOGO COMPARED WITH GERMAN, FRENCH, BRITISH AND SWISS LOANS IS NEGLIGIBLE.

(H) MOBILIZATION OF SUPPORT FOR US ACTIONS AMONG THIRD COUNTRIES - THE COST OF THE STRATEGY WOULD BE LOW. DISCUSSIONS IN BONN AND PARIS WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR SIGNIFICANT ACTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN TOGO. DISCUSSIONS WITH NIGERIA, SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST MIGHT YIELD SOME USEFUL IDEAS.

(I) INITIATIVES IN MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS -

(1) THE UN SYSTEM - THE UN MIGHT BE PRIVATELY ENCOURAGED TO SEND A MISSION TO TOGO TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT.

(2) REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - PRESIDENT EYADEMA IS PRESENT CHAIRMAN OF ECOWAS. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ECOWAS WOULD WISH TO LOOK INTO HUMAN RIGHTS IN TOGO.

IV. REALISTIC AND SPECIFIC PHASED GOALS:

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(A) SHORT TERM (SIX MONTHS)

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(1) ICRC VISIT. CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE AN ICRC VISIT.

(2) CLARIFICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN TOGO. CONDUCT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND ICRC TO EXAMINE HUMAN RIGHTS IN TOGO RELATIVE TO THOSE IN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

(3) FRENCH AND GERMAN SUPPORT. INSTRUCT EMBASSIES IN BONN AND PARIS TO RAISE THE TOGOLESE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS CONCURRENTLY WITH DISCUSSIONS BY US WITH FRENCH AND GERMAN EMBASSIES IN LOME.

(4) NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS. CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL DECISION MAKING PROCESS THROUGH SYMBOLIC GESTURES.

(5) HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSIONS IN TOGO. CONTINUE TO SEND ICA-SPONSORED OR AID-FUNDED SPEAKERS TO TOGO AND FUND PARTICIPATION BY TOGOLESE IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSIONS.

(B) MEDIUM-TERM (TWO YEARS) - CONTINUE TO WORK ON GOALS SET FORTH IN SECTION (A).

(C) LONG TERM (5-10 YEARS) - TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE AT THIS POINT.

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